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LETTER DATED 3 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and further to my letter (S/1994/1398), I have the honour to inform you of a fresh act of aggression committed by forces of the United States of America in our region against the Iraqi vessel Al-Tharthar, which is assigned to carry water and fuel, while it was at anchor in national territorial waters at a point 2 1/2 nautical miles south of the port of Al-Mina' al-Amiq.

At 2130 hours on 23 December 1994, the United States frigate No. 40 approached the vessel Al-Tharthar, and a unit of 12 armed United States soldiers advanced by means of a rubber boat and boarded the vessel, which they then searched. They questioned the crew, cut off communications between the vessel and land centres and detained the vessel and the crew for 10 hours before releasing them.

This unwarranted act of military aggression by United States forces is a flagrant violation of the provisions and principles of the Charter and international law, and confirms the persistence of the United States of America in seizing every opportunity to attack Iraq and to violate its territorial waters, its soil and its airspace.

We condemn this act of aggression in the strongest terms, and we hold the Government of the United States of America fully responsible for its consequences. We further request your intervention, in accordance with the responsibilities entrusted to you under the provisions of the Charter, in order to condemn these criminal acts and ensure that the necessary measures are taken to halt them and prevent their recurrence.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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